

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: 10030634-2 (CHS No.: 2003309-0061)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Pieper, et al.	Examiner:	Venci, David J.
Serial No.:	09/977,358	Group Art Unit:	1641
Filed:	October 16, 2001		
For:	IMMUNOSUBTRACTION METHOD FOR SAMPLE PREPARATION FOR 2-DGE		

BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Andrea Tacchia

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

This Response to Office Action is filed in response to the Office Action mailed September 23, 2004, rejecting claims 27-42 and 44 of the above-referenced patent application. The cited references are Wheatley, 603 J. Chromatogr. 273 (1992) and U.S. Patent No. 5,372,783. The undersigned would like to thank Examiners Venci and Le for the telephonic interview held on Jan. 26, 2005, and for their helpful suggestions during the interview, which have been incorporated in the present response.

The following amendments and remarks remove all grounds for rejection of the application, thereby placing it in condition for allowance.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on p. 2.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper. As indicated there, please cancel claims 1-26 and 43, please amend claims 27, 30-33, 35-39, 41, 42, and 44, and please add claims 45-109. No new matter is added by the amendments.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.